

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday **January 22, 2009** @ 4:30
Santa Barbara Police Department
215 E. Figueroa St.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Lauritsen, Lennon, Signor, Parker and Rodriguez

Staff Present: Police Chief Sanchez, Battalion Chief Pat McElroy, Assistant City Attorney Michelle Montez and Secretary, Barbara Sansone

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Lennon to approve minutes of **November 20, 2008**

VOTE: Unanimous voice vote: Motion passed

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any member of the public may address the Fire & Police Commission for up to one minute on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not scheduled for a public hearing before the Commission. The total time for this item is 10 minutes. If you wish to address the Commission under this item, please complete and deliver to the Commission Secretary before the meeting is convened, a "Request to Speak" form, including a description of the subject you wish to address.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- Role of the Commission and its relationship to the Police Department (Tom Parker)
Commissioner Rodriguez and Assistant City Attorney Michelle Montez explained the role of the Commission and its relationship to the Fire and Police Departments to new Commissioner Tom Parker; Rodriguez explained that the rules are set and the Commission does not look at the conduct of the department; Michelle Montez explained that the Commissioners deal with all of the permits that are issued by the department; Rodriguez also explained that the Commission works in an advisory capacity to the City Council and the City Administrator and the Commission should work to support both the Fire and the Police departments.

Michelle Montez stated that the critical thing for Commissioner Parker to look at is the Charter provisions; Montez stated that in "practical reality" this Commission is the advisory body related to issues dealing with the Fire and Police Departments: Dance Permits, Pedi Cabs, Paratransit, Pool Halls, Alarms, Taxi Permits, Towing issues (raise rates, tow regulations).

Lauritsen inquired about dance permit renewals. Michelle Montez stated that they would be renewed administratively; older permits with no conditions will be reviewed when it is time to renew them; there are approximately 22 dance permits; there will now be a fee of approximately \$1000 for a new permit with an approximate \$200 renewal fee; the Chief stated that the Commission is not a civil review board but the Mayor & Council and Jim Armstrong are his review board.

- Planned budget cuts for the Department and how they will be absorbed (Tom Parker)
Chief Sanchez spoke regarding the budget cuts and what priorities there are for the Commission; input regarding any crime trends, issues brought to the Commissioners from businesses; budget will be given to the Commission to review; Commissioners welcome to come to the Council budget presentations; somewhere between \$1.3 & \$1.7 million must be cut from the PD budget; Policing Fiesta, Solstice & 4th of July costs the department \$650,000; Department is 3-4 weeks away from presenting the budget cuts to the Commission; Fire has to cut between \$700,000 and \$1 million.
- Succession planning in light of recent Command Staff retirements (Tom Parker)
Chief discussed the recent retirements and promotions; Career Development Program is something that was instituted by Chief Breza and is still followed; City HR and the Chief are part of the promotional process; Typically the "list" is good for a year, may be extended this time since positions are being held due to the budget cuts; Formal education encouraged at the management level. Employees have been asked for ideas; Critical training still taking place

Battalion Chief McElroy stated that the Fire Department has another process for succession planning; certification & testing process. A firefighter can be "Acting Engineer," an Engineer can be an "Acting Captain" and a Captain can be an "Acting Battalion Chief" - typically just 1 rank above; There is always a pool of people ready to move into the next position; At the Battalion Chief level there are twice as many people waiting to get into those positions. If everyone left tomorrow there would still be twice the amount of people that currently hold those positions; Some open positions are being frozen but are left on their Org Chart until the Department sees what happens with the budget; The FD budget, as well as the PD budget is 90% personnel; Programs not cut, people are being cut; Fire Department has gone from a 3 part test to a certification process; only an interview is required to be selected.

The Fire Department does not have many ways to enhance revenue; charge for some inspections; department reimbursed for firefighters who are sent out of town for mutual aid; Fire Chief is meeting regularly with the Association Board and a number of proposals are being looked at.

Training: 89 people on the floor; 24,000 hours of training last year; some State & Federal mandates.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Additional Points of Discussion:

"Shelter in Place" to be discussed at next month's meeting; also enhancement of fire sprinkler requirements.

8. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Additional Points of Discussion:

Academy graduation taking place – 2 graduates & 2 in the Academy; Commissioners invited to the Employee Recognition Dinner; Reserve Corps will be recognized; Awards given to sworn and civilian employees and to "Citizen of the Year."

Chief also invited Commissioners to attend COMPSTAT meetings on the last Wednesday of the month in the Briefing Room.

Commissioner Lauritsen is a "mock trial" coach at San Marcos High School and wanted to give kudos to Ryan Diguilio of the Fire Department, Lee Carter of the DA's office and Anita Chamberlain from the PD for their assistance with this program.

9. ADJOURN: 5:20